

State College (SRSC); National Taiwan University (TAI); University of Texas (TEX); Botanical Institute, Tokyo University (TI); Botanical Museum, Utrecht (U); University of California, Berkeley (UC); United States National Museum (US); University of Manitoba (WIN); University of Wisconsin (WIS); and Wayne State University (WUD).

(To be continued)

DIPLACRUM AFRICANUM NEWLY FOUND IN TROPICAL AMERICA: A small tropical sedge, *Diplacrum africanum* C. B. Clarke, previously known as an endemic to Africa, has been collected from southern Suriname near the Brazilian border. The collection is: SURINAME. Sipaliwini savanna area on Brazilian frontier, 1.5 km NNW of 4-Gebroeders Mountains, 300 m alt., on plain in wet valley near a Mauritia-swamp, ON 152, *F. H. F. Oldenburger, R. Norde & J. P. Schulz*, Sept. 1968 (BBS, NY, U). This particular specimen was found growing in sandy soil with an impeded water table through the rock pavement at a depth of ca. 50 cm. Among the associated plants from the same locality were *Philodice hoffmanseggii*, *Syngonanthus glandulosus*, *S. gracilis* var. *koernickeanus*, *Bacopa monierioides*, *Centunculus pentander*, *Polygala paludosa*, *Utricularia adpressa* and *Eleocharis nana*.

*Diplacrum africanum* belongs to the section *Sphaeropus* of the genus because of its fruits, which fall off apart from the subtending glumes, and the spongy thickened receptacle below the upper glumes. Such thickenings are presumed to be formed by the adnation of abortive staminate spikelets to the base of the reduced glumes, and are seen also in a few species of the genus *Becquerelia*, showing the close taxonomic affinity between *Diplacrum* and *Becquerelia* (cf. T. Koyama, in Mem. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 17: 23-79. 1967).

*Diplacrum* section *Sphaeropus* involving two other Asiatic species has hitherto been noted from tropical Africa

and Malaysia, and now has a range extension into northern South America. The previously known range of *D. africanum* covers Upper Guinea, Nile Land and Madagascar. Other cyperaceous taxa that exhibit similar Afro-American phytogeographic links include *Diplacrum capitatum* (= *longifolium*), *Scirpus cubensis*, *Rhynchospora cyperoides*, *Mapania monosperma/maguireana*, *Mapania* sect. *Mapania* (*M. sylvatica* & *assimilis/gabonica*), *Hypolytrum lancifolium/stemonifolium* and *Afrotrilepis/Trilepis*.

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